

Revelation 22:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Analysis

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come (τὸ πνεῦμα καὶ ἡ νύμφη λέγουσιν ἔρχου)—The Holy Spirit and the church unite in this final invitation, echoing Jesus's own promise: "I will come again" (John 14:3). This is both evangelistic invitation and eschatological longing. The imperative *erchou* ("come") appears three times, creating urgent, repetitive appeal.

Let him that is athirst come (ὁ διψῶν ἐρχέσθω)—Isaiah's invitation (55:1) finds its ultimate fulfillment: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." The present participle *dipsōn* ("thirsting") describes ongoing spiritual hunger. **Whosoever will** (ὁ θέλων) underscores free grace—salvation requires only willingness. **Take the water of life freely** (λαβέτω ὕδωρ ζωῆς δωρεάν)—the adverb *dōrean* means "without cost, as a gift." This final invitation in Scripture perfectly balances divine sovereignty ("the Spirit... say") and human responsibility ("whosoever will"), offering Christ to all who thirst.

Historical Context

This verse concludes Revelation's epilogue (22:6-21), written circa AD 95 during John's Patmos exile. The invitation mirrors ancient Near Eastern hospitality customs where water was freely offered to travelers. In the arid climate, water symbolized life itself—a metaphor Jesus used (John 4:10, 7:37-38). The "bride" (church) joining the Spirit's invitation shows the church's missionary nature: those

who have drunk freely now call others to the fountain. This democratization of witness—"let him that heareth say, Come"—meant every believer, not just apostles, could extend grace's invitation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. If the Spirit and bride say "Come," are you adding your voice to this invitation by sharing the gospel with those who thirst?
2. What does it mean that salvation's water is offered "freely" (δωρεάν)—how does this challenge both works-righteousness and cheap grace?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τὸ	πνεῦμα	καὶ	ἡ	νύμφη	λέγουσιν,	ἐλθέτω·	καὶ
And	G3588	the Spirit	And	G3588	the bride	say	Come	And
G2532		G4151	G2532		G3565	G3004	G2064	G2532
ὁ	ἀκούων	εἰπάτω,	ἐλθέτω·	καὶ	ὁ			
G3588	let him that heareth	say	Come	And	G3588			
	G191	G2036	G2064	G2532				
διψῶν	ἐλθέτω·	καὶ	ὁ	θέλων	λαμβανέτω	τὸ		
let him that is athirst	Come	And	G3588	whosoever will	let him take	G3588		
G1372	G2064	G2532		G2309	G2983			
ὕδωρ	ζωῆς	δωρεάν						
the water	of life	freely						
G5204	G2222	G1432						

Additional Cross-References

John 4:14 (Parallel theme): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Revelation 21:6 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

John 7:37 (Parallel theme): In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Isaiah 12:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

John 4:10 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

Psalms 34:8 (Parallel theme): O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Isaiah 2:5 (Parallel theme): O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Revelation 21:2 (Parallel theme): And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 22:1 (Parallel theme): And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Revelation 21:9 (Parallel theme): And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.